

Wycombe complete friendly hat-trick

By STUART EARP: Wycombe Wanderers 2, R.A.F. 0

IN their third consecutive friendly before tomorrow's (Saturday) big league clash at Enfield, Wycombe Wanderers struggled to overcome the R.A.F. representative XI at Loakes Park on Tuesday night. Only in the second half did the Blues reach anything like their best form but goals from Howard Kennedy and Geoff Anthony eventually gave them the verdict, their third friendly win on the trot.

Wanderers fielded their regular back four but changes in midfield and upfront caused the usual problem of lack of cohesion. The first half was extremely disjointed for several reasons. Firstly, the R.A.F. side operated an extreme offside trap which saw their back four racing up to the half-way line whenever danger threatened. Secondly, the referee, an R.A.F. official, used his whistle far too much. Thirdly, neither side seemed able to string more than two or three passes together at a time before losing possession.

Thankfully, all that changed in the second half. Wycombe im-

proved considerably and once ahead, forced the airmen to come out of defence in search of goals.

The R.A.F. began by making more noise than the 300 spectators. It seemed at least seven or eight players wanted the ball at the same time and the poor player in possession must have been haggled by the shouting. They almost fell behind after 11 minutes when John Delaney sent a 40 yard ball over the defence to Dylan Evans. Goalkeeper Burns forced him wide and Dylan's shot finished the wrong side of the upright.

Dylan was unlucky on that

and several other occasions throughout the game but he gave one of his most consistent performances of the season. Laying the ball off accurately and playing with rare confidence, his five star display augurs well for the Enfield game.

Amidst the string of petty fouls and free-kicks, Wanderers went close several times before the interval.

Centre-back Tinslay was booked after 41 minutes for hacking down Macrae — one of a couple of nasty fouls in the game. It is unusual for a player to be booked in a friendly but this particular foul warranted the action.

After the break the football improved considerably, much to the relief of the spectators. Wycombe made a great start with Keith Mead heading fractionally wide. A minute later Dave Alexander, put through by Terry Reardon, crossed from the by-line. His low cross eluded all attempts to clear and reached Kennedy five yards out but he sliced his shot wide of a gaping net.

Howard made amends on the hour, however, by opening Wycombe's account. Again Reardon provided the pass, cleverly chipping the ball over the defence. Kennedy ran on and seemed to hold on to the ball too long but nevertheless squeezed his shot home from a narrow angle.

Thorne robbed Evans of a deserved goal when his ran back to clear off the line and another Evans effort was tipped away by Burns. Bullock then tried his luck and almost surprised the 'keeper with a 35 yard shot from the left wing that hit the side netting.

The second goal came after 78 minutes. Malcolm Jones, a newcomer who played up front, sent the ball out to Anthony, who had come on for Macrae earlier. Geoff was 20 yards out when he looked up and drove the ball into the box. To everyone's surprise (including, I suspect, Geoff himself), the ball curved into the corner of the net past the startled goalkeeper.

Evans and Mead both went close to further goals before the close as Wanderers finished the match well on top.

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle; P. Birdseye, K. Mead, J. Delaney, D. Bullock; H. Kennedy, T. Reardon, D. Alexander; D. Evans, B. Macrae (sub G. Anthony 71 mins), M. Jones. Sub M. Hollifield (not used).

R.A.F.: C. Burns, M. Thorne, M. Harper, R. Tinsley, G. Corkish (sub A. Hamilton 71 mins), J. Hornby, T. Pooley, D. Salkeld, K. Oram, N. Hudson, S. Forster. Sub J. Togood (not used).

Half time: 0-0. **Goalscorers,** Wycombe — Kennedy (60), Anthony (78).

Official attendance: 300.



GEOFF ANTHONY
... surprised!

How they stand

ROTHMANS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE (DIVISION ONE)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	24	16	4	4	52	20	52
Ilford	26	15	6	5	36	24	51
Wycombe	25	14	6	5	41	27	48
Hendon	25	13	6	6	38	21	45
Dagenham	23	13	4	6	51	33	43
Slough	29	11	8	10	39	35	41
Dulwich	26	12	3	11	43	28	39
Tooting	21	11	5	5	37	22	38
Staines	23	10	7	6	27	16	37
Hitchin	27	10	7	10	27	31	37
Kingstonian	25	11	4	10	41	54	37
Sutton	21	10	6	5	42	25	36
Barking	24	10	5	9	35	34	35
Hayes	27	7	12	8	30	31	33
Leatherhead	21	9	5	7	35	34	32
Woking	27	8	3	16	34	46	27
Oxford	25	7	6	12	19	34	27
Bishops	22	7	5	10	26	29	26
W'thamstow	23	7	4	12	28	38	25
Southall	23	5	6	12	32	37	21
Leytonstone	27	2	9	16	17	46	15
Clapton	28	2	1	25	10	75	7

At Aylesbury

RIVET Sports, opponents of Wycombe Wanderers in the third round of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup, confirmed this week that the match against the Blues will be played on Aylesbury United's ground on January 24. Kick-off is at 2 p.m.